

apparent that the concept of isolation posts or areas can be applied to any membrane shape in any kind of post design. Furthermore, isolation posts or areas of different sizes, shapes, locations, and heights will allow engineering the variation of capacitance of the cMUT as a function of applied voltages. The location, size and height of the posts or areas can be chosen to optimize the frequency response, or the output pressure and receive sensitivity both before and after contact with the posts or areas.--

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 14, of application as follows:

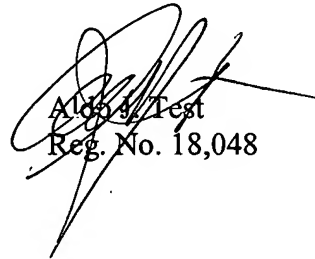
--It is apparent that the isolation posts shown in Figure 4 could be applied to this top electrode membrane 36 prior to bonding and operation would be the same. Figure 7 illustrates an embodiment of the invention in which the isolation posts 41 are fabricated on the membrane.--

REMARKS

The specification has been amended to make it more readable and to conform with the drawings.

Respectfully submitted,

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